

## CURRICULUM VITAE – DR JULIAN PERLMUTTER

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### RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

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**Specialisation:** philosophy of religion, ethics, epistemology

**Competence:** metaphysics, philosophy of music, philosophy of emotion

### EDUCATION

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#### **2021–22: University of Oxford**

##### **Postgraduate Certificate in Education: Philosophy and Religion**

- Subject-specific and general professional pedagogy
- Two teaching placements in state secondary schools (ages 11–18)

#### **2013–17: University of Cambridge, AHRC Doctoral Studentship**

##### **PhD Philosophy of Religion – passed with no corrections**

##### **Title: ‘Beyond Belief: An Epistemology of Musical Engagement and Religious Desire’**

- Argues that by engaging with sacred music, believers and non-believers alike can cultivate a type of desire for God that gives them a distinct kind of knowledge of God
- Makes a novel contribution to religious epistemology, centred not on propositional belief but on desire for God
- Shows that religiously significant knowledge about God is open to people with an attitude of ‘interested non-belief’ – a familiar contemporary stance towards religious doctrine
- Discusses religious desire and knowledge in two areas of Christian practice, sacred music and contemplative prayer, and so offers new insights into how believers and non-believers alike can participate in a major spiritual tradition
- Examiners: Prof Mark Wynn and Prof Jeremy Begbie
- Supervisor: Prof Sarah Coakley

#### **2012–13: University of Cambridge, AHRC Research Preparation Masters Studentship**

##### **MPhil Theology and Religious Studies**

- Dissertation: ‘Trust and Religious Commitment: An Investigation into Epistemic Dimensions of Religious Practice with Special Reference to the Works of Nicholas Wolterstorff’

#### **2008–11: University of Leeds**

##### **BA (Hons) Philosophy – First Class**

- Dissertation: ‘Is “Moderate” Agnosticism a Defensible Position?’ – Mangoletsi Prize for best undergraduate dissertation in theoretical philosophy

## EMPLOYMENT

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### **2022–present: Highgate School, London**

#### **Teacher of Religion and Philosophy**

- Teach philosophy, theology, and religious studies to students aged 11–18
- Run co-curricular philosophy and debating societies
- Student mentoring and other pastoral responsibilities

### **2020–21: Tonbridge School**

#### **Teacher of Philosophy**

- Taught philosophy of religion, ethics, and religious studies to students aged 13–18
- Ran university interview preparation sessions
- Ran extension and enrichment classes for Sixth Form students
- Produced new departmental teaching materials for Sixth Form
- Led co-curricular sports and activities
- Carried out a range of pastoral responsibilities

### **2018–19: Cambridge Theological Federation**

#### **Lecturer and Tutor in Ethics**

- Designed, taught, and examined three courses in ethics, involving lectures, seminars, and supervisions delivered to students at Westcott House and Ridley Hall, Cambridge

### **2018–19: Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme, University of Cambridge**

#### **Administrator of Research**

- Research assistance and project administration for the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme, based at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
- Co-organised a major REF public-impact workshop on ‘Scripture and Violence’

### **2017–18: Faculties of Philosophy and Divinity, University of Cambridge**

#### **Supervisor and Invited Lecturer in Philosophy and Theology**

- Supervised and lectured undergraduates in the Faculty of Philosophy and Faculty of Divinity

### **2016–17: Department of Theology & Religious Studies, King’s College London**

#### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

- Research and administration for the Religious Experience and Desire project – part of the Experience Project based at the University of Notre Dame
- Project investigated religious experience and desire using an interdisciplinary approach, involving philosophical, theological, and interview-based empirical research
- Lectured Master’s students in philosophy at Heythrop College, University of London, which ran the project with KCL

### **2016: Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge**

#### **Supervisor in Philosophy**

- Supervised undergraduates in the Faculty of Philosophy

### **2011–12: Church Urban Fund, London**

#### **Major Donor and Trusts Administrator**

- Prepared funding applications and cultivated relationships with charitable trusts; co-organised a major event for prospective donors

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books (authored)

*Sacred Music, Religious Desire and Knowledge of God: The Music of Our Human Longing* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020; paperback 2021)

### Articles

‘Peter Kivy, Sacred Music, and Affective Response: Knowing God Through Music’, in *Knowing God Personally: Essays in Analytic Spirituality*, ed. Joshua Cockayne and David Worsley (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

‘Personal or Non-Personal Divinity: A New Pluralist Approach’, in *New Philosophical Responses to Religious Diversity*, ed. Janusz Salamon (New York, NY: Routledge, forthcoming)

‘Desiring God Implicitly: “Worldly Union Desires” and Openness to God’, *Religious Studies* 55/3 (September 2019), 419–428

‘Desiring the Hidden God: Knowledge Without Belief’, *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 8/4 (Winter 2016), 51–64

‘Drawing from the Well of Silence’, *Noesis* 2 (Easter 2015), 73–77

‘Religious Yearning as Religious Knowing: Affective Engagement with Purcell’s *Hear My Prayer, O Lord*’, *Noesis* 1 (Easter 2014), 22–30

‘Pascal’s Wager and the Cost of Error’, *Journal of Leeds University Philosophical Society* 2/1 (Summer 2012), 35–45

### Reviews

*In Search of the Soul: A Philosophical Essay* by John Cottingham, *Ratio* 34/1 (March 2021), 81–84

### Pieces for a general audience

‘The Desire for Union: Bridging the Religious and the Secular’, *RE Today* 37/3 (Summer 2020), 71 – distributed to the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education, UK (approx. 3,000 members)

‘Desiring and Knowing God’, blog post for *Everyday Theology* (2018) – reached 200+ readers

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (\*=INVITED)

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‘Peter Kivy, Sacred Music, and Affective Response’, Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion Inaugural Conference: Part 2, Princeton University (October 2021)

\* ‘Sexual Ethics as a Case Study for Two Kinds of Biblical Authority’, workshop on ‘Interpreting Sacred Texts: Truth and Authority’, University of York (June 2019)

\* 'Against Kivy: Sacred Music and Affective Response', Centre for Philosophy of Religion, University of Leeds (October 2018)

\* 'Against Kivy: Sacred Music and Affective Response', Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts, University of St Andrews (September 2018)

'Personal or Non-Personal Divinity: A New Pluralist Approach', 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Religion, Charles University, Prague (August 2018)

'Personal/Non-Personal Divinity and the Epistemology of Disagreement: A New Pluralist Approach', Analytic Theology Summer School on 'Personal and A-Personal Concepts of God', Innsbruck (July 2018)

'Desiring God Implicitly: "Worldly Union Desires" and Openness to God', 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion, University of Oxford (September 2017)

\* 'Desiring God Implicitly', Symposium of the Religious Experience and Desire project, Heythrop College, University of London (June 2017)

'Sacred Music, Religious Emotion, and Knowledge about God', 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia (November 2015)

'Desiring the Hidden God: Knowledge Without Belief', 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion, University of Oxford (September 2015)

'Divine and Human Goodness: Analogical Meanings, Meta-Ethical Core', '*Religious Studies* at 50' conference, University of Leeds (June 2014)

## TEACHING

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### 2022–present: Class teaching, Highgate School

*Philosophy* A Level: AQA specification

- Moral philosophy: utilitarianism; Kantian ethics; virtue ethics; applied ethics (animal rights; simulated killing; stealing; lying); meta-ethics (moral language; moral realism and anti-realism)

*Religious Studies* A Level: OCR specification

- Philosophy of religion: Plato and Aristotle; soul, mind, and body; arguments for God's existence (teleological; cosmological; ontological); religious experience; problem of evil; God's attributes; religious language
- Christian theology: Augustine on human nature; death and the afterlife; human knowledge of God; the person of Jesus Christ; religious pluralism; Christianity and gender; secularism; liberation theology

*Religious Studies* International GCSE: Edexcel specification, focusing on Buddhism

- Religious texts and sources of authority; founders and leaders; festivals and celebration; pilgrimage; places and forms of worship; the universe and place of human beings; human nature and the human condition; selfishness, greed, ignorance, and sin; free will, determinism, and predestination; ultimate reality; belief, uncertainty, and unbelief; problem of evil; death and life

after death; the meaning and purpose of life; sanctity of life, abortion, and euthanasia; human relationships; marriage; family; childlessness and celibacy

Introductions to philosophy, theology, and religion

- Epistemology and religion; metaphysics and religion; theology and the arts; ethics and religion; theology; personal identity

### **2021–22: Class teaching, PGCE placement schools (The Bicester School and Lord Williams's School)**

*Religious Studies* A Level: AQA specification

- Philosophy of religion and ethics: religious experience; applied ethics (medical ethics; capital punishment)

*Religious Studies* GCSE: AQA specification

- Topics from: Christianity; Buddhism; relationships and families; religion and life

Introductions to philosophy, theology, and religious studies

- Philosophy and ethics; Christianity and the modern world; religion and identity; Biblical figures; Buddhism and suffering; inequality; alternative worldviews; environment; medical ethics; animal rights

### **2020–21: Class teaching, Tonbridge School**

*Religious Studies* A Level: Edexcel specification

- Philosophy of religion: problem of evil; religious experience; life after death
- Ethics: utilitarianism; situation ethics; natural law; Kant; virtue ethics; war and peace; medical ethics; sexual ethics; environmental ethics; equality; meta-ethics; religion and morality

*Religious Studies* International GCSE: Edexcel specification, focusing on Christianity

- The universe and place of human beings; human nature and the human condition; selfishness, greed, ignorance, and sin; free will, determinism, and predestination; ultimate reality; belief, uncertainty, and unbelief; problem of evil; human rights; race and ethnicity; interfaith relations; rich and poor; religious texts and sources of authority; founders and leaders; festivals and celebration; pilgrimage

Introduction to philosophy and ethics

- Philosophy of religion: nature of philosophy; sources of knowledge; Aquinas' five ways (1 and 2); Paley's argument from design; Marx's critique of religion; Pascal's wager
- Ethics: challenge of ethical egoism; deontology; utilitarianism; crime and punishment; war and peace; terrorism

### **2018–19: Lecturing, tutoring, and supervising, Cambridge Theological Federation**

Course leader for three modules:

*Christian ethics*, module for Bachelor of Theology for Ministry (BTh)

- Divine command theories and eudaemonistic meta-ethics; Greek philosophy and the Bible; natural law; Kant; utilitarianism; virtue ethics; environmental ethics; theological anthropology and ethics; beginning and end of life; economic ethics; war and peace; sexuality and marriage

*Christian faith and ethical living*, module for Common Awards in theological education (x2)

- Syllabus same as *Christian ethics*, above

### **2018: Lecturing, University of Cambridge**

*God, metaphysics and the modern challenge*, third-year undergraduate, Faculty of Divinity

- Evil; personal identity; life after death

### **2016–18: One-to-one supervising, University of Cambridge**

*God, metaphysics and the modern challenge*, third-year undergraduate, Faculty of Divinity

- Kant; Reformed epistemology; Richard Swinburne and inductive arguments for God's existence; evil; personal identity; life after death; God and time

*God, freedom and the soul*, second-year undergraduate, Faculty of Divinity

- Plato; Aquinas; Hume; Kant; Nietzsche; personal identity; life after death; evil

*Metaphysics and epistemology*, second-year undergraduate, Faculty of Philosophy

- Scepticism; epistemic justification; epistemology of testimony; modal metaphysics
- Coursework supervisions: 'Knowledge-First Epistemology and Knowledge as a Mental State'; 'Moorean and Contextualist Responses to Scepticism'

*Metaphysics*, first-year undergraduate, Faculty of Philosophy

- Evil; theistic arguments for design; ontological arguments

### **2017: Lecturing, Heythrop College, University of London**

*Reason and religion*, Master's-level philosophy module

- Ethics of belief

### **2010–11: Proctoring, University of Leeds**

- Supervised discussion in four first-year undergraduate philosophy modules: *Introduction to philosophy*; *Introduction to ethics*; *Introduction to the history of philosophy*; *The mind*

### **Teaching feedback**

*'I would like to say a huge thank you for an inspiring year of philosophy: your lessons and the ensuing debates sparked a keen interest in the subject. I greatly enjoyed the openness for discussion both with you and in your classes, and I can honestly say I enjoyed every one of your lessons.'*

*'Thank you for all that you've done over the past year. I've thoroughly enjoyed your course and have been so well supported and motivated by you. I'm delighted to say that I'm going on to study theology at university – in no small part due to the great teaching you have given me.'*

*'Dr Perlmutter presented exceptional lectures on ethics and was a superb facilitator.'*

*'Julian is lovely and extremely intelligent. He has been very good in seminars.'*

*'The lectures have been excellent and very informative.'*

*'This was a great module, Julian was great and really worked well with the students.'*

*'The ideas have been presented in a framework which is rigorous and very well constructed.'*

*'Dr Perlmutter has a distinctive lecturing style and complemented Prof Coakley's discussion of the problem of evil. The consequence was a fascinating discussion.'*

*'Excellent...easy to follow and thought-provoking. Illustrations on the whiteboard of Swinburne's concept of the self were particularly effective.'*

*'Good lectures, very clear and concise account of the problem of evil and a riposte to Swinburne's view of the soul.'*

*'Julian has been an excellent supervisor during my final year studies. During supervisions he not only challenged the philosophical arguments I made during my weekly essays but he was also proactive in providing advice on examination technique, so that I was fully informed on the steps I needed to take to achieve the highest marks. Julian created resources for me to use prior to starting a topic which provided a brief overview of the key issues in the topic and the main arguments given in the reading; I found these exceptionally helpful, especially as I was new to the subject Julian was teaching. He has shown flexibility and a willingness to tailor his teaching to suit my specific learning needs.'*

*'My mark of 67 was a massive improvement on how I did in these topics last year [2:2 to high 2:1], so I am very pleased. Thank you very much.'*

Another student's Director of Studies emailed to say how highly the student had spoken of our supervisions.

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## PRIZES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**2018:** Selected to present at the **Analytic Theology Summer School on 'Personal and A-Personal Concepts of God'**, Innsbruck (**under 25% of applicants accepted**) – part of the Templeton-funded Analytic Theology Project

**2016:** Selected for the **St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology**, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota (**under 20% of applicants accepted**) – involved sessions on a range of issues in philosophy and theology with figures including Eleonore Stump, Michael Murray, and Peter van Inwagen

**2014: Varga Prize for Theology**, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge, for founding the F. D. Maurice Society – a series of talks in philosophy and theology whose speakers included Keith Ward, Arif Ahmed, and Jeremy Morris

**2011: Mangoletsi Prize**, University of Leeds, for best undergraduate dissertation in theoretical philosophy

**2010:** Admitted to the **Students as Scholars research mentoring programme**, University of Leeds, for students of high potential

**2009:** Named on the **Humanities List**, University of Leeds, for an overall First Class mark in Year 1

## ACADEMIC EVENTS ORGANISED

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### **2020–21: Extension and enrichment classes, Tonbridge School**

- Sessions to stretch the brightest students; topics included ‘The Atonement’ and ‘Belief, engagement, and religious understanding’

### **2019: Co-organisier, REF public-impact workshop on ‘Scripture and Violence’, Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme**

- Workshop with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders, exploring the relationships between scripture and violence in all three faiths
- Formed the basis of a submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) on the public impact of research

### **2016–17: Administration for the Religious Experience and Desire project, King’s College London and Heythrop College, University of London**

- Seminars and conference for academics and the public, resulting in a special edition of *Religious Studies* journal
- Part of the Experience Project based at the University of Notre Dame

### **2015: Co-convenor, Religion, Belief, and Affect group, University of Cambridge**

- Interdisciplinary reading group with members of the Divinity, English, and History faculties

### **2013–15: Founder and coordinator, F. D. Maurice Society, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge**

- Series of talks in philosophy and theology whose speakers included Keith Ward, Arif Ahmed, and Jeremy Morris

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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Session chair at 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Religion, Charles University, Prague (August 2018)

Respondent on three occasions at the ‘D Society’ in philosophy of religion, University of Cambridge (2013–18)

Session chair at conference on ‘Love and Desire’, Heythrop College, University of London (June 2016)

## OUTREACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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### **2020: Guest speaker at Jesus College, Cambridge**

- ‘Evensong for Non-Believers’, address given at choral evensong service

### **2017: Joint coordinator, workshop for Cambridge Festival of Ideas**

- ‘Asking the Big Questions Outside of a Religious Community’, attended by members of the public

### **2016: Lecturer, Sutton Trust summer school**

- ‘Design Arguments for God’s Existence’, delivered to sixth-form students from underprivileged backgrounds



## FUNDING OBTAINED

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**2018:** Bethune-Baker Grant, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

**2018:** Analytic Theology Summer School presentation grant

**2016:** St. Thomas Summer Seminar Public Forum Incentive Award

**2016:** St. Thomas Summer Seminar participation grant

**2014–16:** Alasdair Charles Macpherson Grant (x4), Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

**2014–16:** Trinity Hall Research Grant (x4), University of Cambridge

**2013–16:** AHRC Doctoral Studentship, University of Cambridge

**2015:** AHRC Research Training Support Grant

**2013–15:** Grants from the chapel treasury of Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge, for running the F. D. Maurice Society

**2012–13:** AHRC Research Preparation Masters Studentship, University of Cambridge

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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British Society for the Philosophy of Religion

European Society for Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain

British Educational Research Association

## NON-ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND INTERESTS

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### Religion and spirituality

- Co-editor and contributor, *Young and Contemplative* – two internationally distributed collections of articles on prayer in the lives of young adults (2010–13)
- Group Leader, Taizé community, France (2010)

### Music

- Member of the Wren Choir, Cambridge (2016–19) and Trinity Hall Chapel Choir, Cambridge (2012–16)
- Musical Coordinator, Cambridge Taizé Group (2013–16)

**REFEREES**

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**1) Prof Sarah Coakley**, Honorary Professor, University of St Andrews; Visiting Professorial Fellow, Australian Catholic University. Email: [sc545@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sc545@cam.ac.uk).

**2) Prof Mark Wynn**, Nolloth Professor of the Philosophy of the Christian Religion, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Oxford OX2 6GG. Email: [mark.wynn@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mark.wynn@theology.ox.ac.uk).

**3) Prof John Cottingham**, Honorary Fellow, St John's College, University of Oxford; Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Reading. Email: [jgcottingham@mac.com](mailto:jgcottingham@mac.com).